

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 657

By Travis

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Representative
Raymond B. Walker of Dayton.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that we learned of the passing of our former colleague Representative Raymond B. Walker of Dayton; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Walker was a prominent and highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of his community, and as a legislator, he served his constituents with compassion, respect, and dignity; and

WHEREAS, during his four terms in the House of Representatives (100th, 101st, 102nd, and 103rd General Assemblies), Representative Walker was renowned as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always worked diligently on behalf of the good people of the 25th House District, which included his native county of Rhea as well as Bledsoe and Cumberland counties; and

WHEREAS, Representative Walker was a valuable participant in the legislative process and earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for the outstanding contributions he made as a member of the Agriculture Committee, Commerce Committee, Finance, Ways and Means Committee, and Industrial Impact Subcommittee of the House and the Joint TennCare Oversight Committee; and

WHEREAS, known as a consensus-builder in the House who was able to bring various factions together to pass legislation, Representative Walker excelled as Chairman of the House GOP's TennCare Task Force; and

WHEREAS, in September 2000, Representative Walker, who had sponsored the enabling legislation, was appointed to a special commission to aid mentally ill and developmentally disabled citizens in accessing services in their community; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure in the House of Representatives, Raymond Walker worked assiduously to improve the economy and the quality of life in the 25th House District and was instrumental in obtaining grants of more than \$8 million for various county and city infrastructure projects, securing road improvement funding for Peavine Road and Lantana Road, and obtaining funds for Roane State Community College building projects and the modernization of the pharmacy at Cumberland Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, he also played an important role in securing the location of the Southeast Tennessee Correctional Facility, expanding Highway 27 to four lanes, building Blythe's and Washington bridges over the Tennessee River, and obtaining grant money to complete the road into the Industrial Park in Spring City, which road has been appropriately named "Raymond Walker Boulevard"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walker also served with distinction as the Delegate from the 25th House District to the 1977 Constitutional Convention in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards or accolades during his career, Representative Raymond Walker had been named Dayton Young Man of the Year, recognized as the University of Tennessee William and Mary Hale "Family of the Year," and honored with the State 4-H Alumni Recognition Award; and

WHEREAS, he had been honored with the Tennessee Primary Care Association Recognition Award and the Southeast Development 2004 Legislator of the Year Award for his efforts in the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciated the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of citizenship, Representative Walker was involved in many civic and governmental organizations; he was a former member of the Industrial Development Board for Dayton, a current member and past board member of Rhea Economic and Tourism Council Development, a member and past president of the Dayton Rotary Club, a member and past president of the Dayton Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cumberland County, a member of the Chamber of Commerce of Bledsoe County, a past board

member of Rhea County United Way, a past board member of Rhea County Medical Center, a past president of Dayton Jaycees, and a lifetime member and senator of JCI and served as foreman of the Rhea County Grand Jury for many years; and

WHEREAS, in his professional life, Representative Walker was a dairy farmer and worked as a Farm Bureau agent for forty-one years, having served as president of Sweetwater Valley Life Underwriters Association and Federal District Coordinator of the National Association of Life Underwriters; and

WHEREAS, the son of the late Thomas Franklin and Lillie Mae (Durham) Walker, he was a graduate of the Dale Carnegie Speaking and Human Relations program and a member of the First United Methodist Church of Dayton; and

WHEREAS, Representative Walker is survived by his wife of sixty years, Sue Ann (Martin) Walker; two sons, Barry Lynn (Bonnie) Walker and Keith Randall (Hope) Walker; two granddaughters, Abigail Grace Walker and Hannah Faith Walker; and several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that his colleagues in the General Assembly should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Representative Raymond B. Walker, reflecting fondly upon his enduring legacy as a public servant, legislator, and family man and paying homage to his productive tenure in the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Representative Walker.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.